



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE

November 8, 1999

### **H.R. 441** **Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999**

*As cleared by the Congress on November 2, 1999*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 441 would have a negligible net impact on the federal budget. The act would affect direct spending and receipts, but we estimate that the amounts involved would be less than \$500,000 annually.

H.R. 441 would establish a new nonimmigrant category for nurses who would work in areas of the United States with shortages of health professionals. The act would authorize the issuance of 500 nonimmigrant visas annually over the next four years for individuals in this category, and recipients could stay in the United States for three years. The fee charged for these visas would be \$110, so enacting H.R. 441 could increase the amount of fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by about \$55,000 annually if all 500 visas were granted. The INS would spend the fees (without appropriation action), mostly in the year in which they were collected, so enacting H.R. 441 would result in a negligible net impact on INS spending.

The act would require the Department of Labor (DOL) to charge fees of up to \$250 to facilities that file applications to hire immigrant nurses. This provision would result in the collection of fees totaling between \$15,000 and \$50,000 annually, assuming all visas are granted and petitioning facilities apply to hire more than one worker. The spending of fees collected by DOL would be subject to appropriation action.

In addition, the act would increase civil monetary penalties for violations of certain laws relating to the hiring of nonimmigrant nurses. This action could result in the collection of additional receipts, but we estimate that any such amounts would be less than \$500,000 per year.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for INS costs), and Christina Hawley Sadoti (for DOL costs). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.